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Messrs. Churchill and Sim, of London, report :—

Timber Trade.—“ It is very important to review the trade in Wood during the year just closed, to trace the extent of the supply, to estimate the consumption, and to see how much stock has accumulated for use in this country, while the ports of America and the North of Europe are closed.

“ The wood trade of the *United Kingdom* is computed from the following tables of the Board of Trade :—

	1859.	1858.	1857.	1856.	1855.
<i>Imported—</i>					
Colonial timber, deals, &c.	1,300,000	1,095,771	1,346,824	1,223,748	958,301
Foreign	1,360,000	1,131,485	1,157,719	1,217,515	884,792
Total loads	2,660,000	2,227,256	2,504,543	2,441,263	1,843,093
<i>Consumption (apparent)—</i>					
Colonial timber, deals, &c.	1,300,000	1,095,771	1,340,762	1,214,605	942,713
Foreign	1,160,000	1,088,167	1,076,353	1,067,239	932,749
Total loads	2,460,000	2,183,938	2,417,115	2,281,844	1,875,462
<i>Imported duty free—</i>					
Oak staves, colonial, and } foreign, in loads	110,000	105,236	111,545	82,181	67,747

Consumption in London during Five Years.

	1859.	1858.	1857.	1856.	1855.
Sawn Wood — Battens, } boards and ends... <i>pieces</i> }	7,050,000	6,975,000	6,134,000	6,778,000	6,802,000
Hewn Wood—Square and } round <i>loads</i> }	245,000	218,000	190,000	185,000	182,000

“ The returns of the Board of Trade show that the wood trade of the United Kingdom has recently exceeded 2,500,000 loads, *about half this supply* being drawn from our colonies in British America, and most of the remainder from the north of Europe. From the tables of the wood trade in London we arrive at more definite results. The amount of tonnage shows that nearly *one-fourth part* of the trade of the kingdom centres in London. The *importation* in 1859 appears to have been 20 *per cent.* more than the average of the four preceding years ; and the consumption of sawn wood has increased 5 *per cent.*, and of hewn wood 25 *per cent.*

“ At the opening of the year 1859 there seemed every prospect of a healthy and vigorous trade throughout the country. Counteracting influences, however, disappointed this hope. The war in Italy affected all our commercial relations, and no sooner had the war ceased, than the wood trade was especially damaged by the builders’ strike. We have shown that the consumption of wood has increased, but there has been no spirit, no confidence in speculation, no trust in the future. At the period when large quantities of wood should have been consumed, the ill-judged strike of the operatives sacrificed two valuable months in the year of the building trade.

“ The price of wood in the countries of its production has been *so much higher of late years* that an importation now seldom realizes its first cost. During the past year there was no disposition to pay the prices demanded in Russia and in

NOTICE.

THE Council of the Statistical Society of London wish it to be understood, that, while they consider it their duty to adopt every means within their power to test the facts inserted in this Journal, they do not hold themselves responsible for their accuracy, which must rest upon the authority of the several Contributors.

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CONTENTS.

VOL. XXIII.—YEAR 1860.

March, 1860.

	PAGE
On the Rate of Wages in Manchester and Salford, and the Manufacturing Districts of Lancashire, 1839-59. By DAVID CHADWICK, Treasurer, of Salford.....	1—36
On the Distribution and Productiveness of Taxes with reference to the Prospective Ameliorations in the Public Revenue of the United Kingdom. By LEONE LEVI, F.S.A., F.S.S., Barrister-at-Law, Professor of the Principles and Practice of Commerce in King's College, London	37—65
On the Recent and Rapid Progress of the British Trade with India. By RICHARD VALPY, Esq.	66—75
Results of the Trade of the United Kingdom during the Year 1859; with Statements and Observations relative to the Course of Prices since the Year 1844. By WILLIAM NEWMARCH, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Statistical Society, and Editor of its <i>Journal</i>	76—110
Miscellanea:—Finances and Currency of Turkey.—Indian Finance, 1860-1.—Russian Financial Difficulties.—Agricultural Labour and Property in Norway.—London Joint Stock Banks, 1849-54-59	111—116
Quarterly Returns, Oct., Nov., Dec., 1859	117—140

June, 1860.

Twenty-Sixth Anniversary Meeting of the Statistical Society. Session 1859-60	141—146
A Review of the Statistics of Spain down to the Years 1857 and 1858; chiefly founded on the Spanish Census Returns of those Years. By FREDERICK HENDRIKS	147—200
Extracts from the Tables and Official Information respecting the Prussian States for the Year 1849, published by the Statistical Department at Berlin, and a few Remarks by the Translator. Contributed by SIR FRANCIS HENRY GOLDSMID, BART., M.P., Q.C.	201—221

	PAGE
Recommendations of the Council of the Statistical Society as regards the Census of 1861	222, 223
On the Statistics of Railway Enterprise and Traffic in Germany. By WILHELM LAZARUS, Hamburg	224—232
Miscellanea :—The Finances of the City of Paris, 1858-9.—Condition of the Poorer Classes at Rome, 1860.—The American Census of 1860.—City of Sydney, New South Wales. Births, Deaths, three years, 1857-9.—Germany, Emigration from, 1854-9.—Credit Mobilier Society at Paris. Conditions and Operations in 1859.—Local Taxation of England and Wales, Scotland, and Ireland, in 1858-9.—Strikes of Building Trades in New York.—Exchange Operations, New York and London.—Turkey; State of Currency, Amount of Debt, &c., in May, 1860	233—251
Quarterly Returns, Jan., Feb., March, 1860	252—275
<i>September, 1860.</i>	
Address of the PRINCE CONSORT on opening, as President, the Fourth Session of the International Statistical Congress	277—285
Statistics of the English Poor Rate, before and since the passing of the Poor Law Amendment Act. By FREDERICK PURDY, Principal of the Statistical Department, Poor Law Board, London	286—329
On the Province of the Statistician. By J. J. FOX, Fellow of the Statistical Society	330—336
On the Application of a New Statistical Method to the Ascertainment of the Votes of Majorities in a more Exhaustive Manner. By THOMAS HARE, Esq., Barrister-at-Law	337—356
Opening Address of NASSAU W. SENIOR, Esq., as President of Section (F), Economic Science and Statistics, at the Meeting of the British Association, at Oxford, 28th June, 1860....	357—361
Some Observations on the present Position of Statistical Inquiry, with Suggestions for Improving the Efficiency of the International Statistical Congress	362—369
On the System of Taxation prevailing in the United States, and especially in Massachusetts. By EDWARD JARVIS, M.D. (Boston, U.S.), President of the American Statistical Association	370—378
Serfdom in Russia at the Present Time. By DR. MICHELSEN, of the Board of Trade	379—381

Thirtieth Meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, held at Oxford, 27th June—4th July, 1860. Section (F), Economic Science and Statistics	382, 383
International Statistical Congress, 1860	384—386
Proceedings of the Statistical Society, Session 1859-60	387—389
Miscellanea:—New South Wales; Proposed New Regulation for Sale and Occupation of Lands.—Discovery of Silver in California, July, 1859.—Wesleyan Methodism in Great Britain in 1860.—High Price of Butchers' Meat; Curious Meeting of Working Men.—Statutes of the New Russian Bank.—Oxford Free Public Library and Reading Room; Results, 1854-60.—Terminable Annuities; Eligibility as a mode of Borrowing.—List of References to the Official Publication of the Annual Poor Rate Returns of England and Wales.—Irremovable Poor; Report of the Commons Committee of 1860.....	390—403
Quarterly Returns, April, May, June, 1860	404—426

December, 1860.

Abstracts and Inferences founded upon the Official Criminal Returns of England and Wales for the Years 1854-9, with Special Reference to the results of Reformatories. By T. BARWICK LLOYD BAKER, Esq., Hardwicke Court, near Gloucester	427—454
On the Principles of an Income Tax. By the REV. DR. BOOTH, F.R.S., &c.	455—464
Facts and Statements illustrative of the Trade of Suez and of the Commerce of the Red Sea, as at present carried on. By G. F. DASSY, of Constantinople	465—474
Memorandum on the Population Statistics of Spain in 1858 and 1859; in continuation of the "Review of the Statistics of Spain," read to the Statistical Society in February, 1860. By MR. FREDERICK HENDRIKS	475—478
On Methods of Investigation as regards Statistics of Prices and of Wages in the Principal Trades. Being the Programme prepared by request for the Section (IV) Commercial Statistics of the Fourth Session of the International Statistical Congress, held in London in July, 1860. By WILLIAM NEWMARCH, one of the Honorary Secretaries of the Statistical Society, and Editor of its <i>Journal</i>	479—497

Observations on the present and recent Condition of the Finances of Austria. By J. E. HORN (Paris), Honorary Member of the Statistical Society of London, &c., &c.	498—507
Observations on the State of the Aboriginal Maori Inhabitants of New Zealand. By F. D. FENTON (Auckland), the Com- piler of the Statistical Tables of the Maori Population	508—541
Miscellanea:—Life Assurance Convention at New York, 1860.— Sugar Crop of Louisiana, 1834-59.—Statistics of Cheap Literature in Leeds.—Mr. W. Chambers on the Book Trade. —The “Cheap” Press; Effect of the Repeal, in 1855, of the Penny Stamp.—Male Population of the Seven Great States of the World.—Progress of Savings’ Banks.—Colony of Victoria (Australia), Changes produced by the Gold Dis- coveries; Revival of Agriculture.—Glasgow New Water- works; Economic Savings.—New Land Act (1860), adopted in the Colony of Victoria (Australia)	542—555
Quarterly Returns, July, August, September, 1860	556—578
INDEX to vol. xxiii (1860)	579—593
